Task force on rural infrastructure

2612. SHRIMATI PREMACARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the task force on rural infrastructure has announced to release Rs. 1,74,000 crores for rural infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages that don't have telephone, electricity or drinking water facililty; and

(d) by what time, they would be provided with these necessities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. Only a preliminary estimate of total expenditure for the Bharat Nirman has now been made as about Rs. 1,76,000 crores against the earlier assessment of Rs 1,74,000 crores.

(b) The total estimated fund requirement for each of the six rural infrastructure areas is as below:

(Rs. in crore)

SI.No.	Component	Total estimated fund requirement
1	Irrigation	68,500*
2	Roads	47,554
3	Housing	11,100
4	Drinking Water	25,300
5	Rural electrification	23,300
6	Telephony	451
	TOTAL	1,76,205

*Includes likely state plan expenditure on irrigation

(c) It is proposed to cover 66,822 villages with telephone connectivity, 1,25,000 villages with electricity and 55067 villages with drinking water.

(d) Bharat Nirman is a 4 year programme which is scheduled to be completed by 2008-09. However, while the rural roads programme would need one more year, the programme of rural electrification would extend

till the end of Eleventh Plan. Rural telephone connection is proposed to be completed in 3 years.

Economic Package for Orissa

2613. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have sought a report from the Governor of Orissa on the need for a special economic package to the cash-strapped debt-ridden Orissa State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has asked for a special economic package of Rs. 13,096 crores to be implemented over a period of six years from 2004-05 to 2009-10, and also to write-off the heavy debt of the State; and

(c) if so, the status of the above proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Economic Package among other items seeks an amount of Rs. 3778 crore towards debt write-off.

(c) In addition to the normal flow of funds under various centrally sponsored schmes, in Annual Plan 2005-06 central assistance on 100% grant basis has been made available for schemes to redress regional imbalances including Rs. 250 crore for the Special Plan for the undivided Kalahandi-Bolang-Koraput (KBK) districts and Rs. 75 crore under the Backward Districts Initiative. Further, Rs. 68 crore has been allocated as one time additional central assistance.

As far as outstanding debt is concerned, the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has recommended a Debt Consolidation and Waiver Scheme for states. Under the scheme, the past Central loans contracted till 31.3.2004 and outstanding as on 31.3.2005 are to be consolidated and rescheduled for repayment in 20 equal annual instalments at a reduced interest rate of 7.5%, subject to States enacting Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Acts with suggested core of provisions. Government